

ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society
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Material for inclusion in Echo Ireland
should be sent to

Dave Moore, EI4BZ
Dooneen, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork
ei4bz@eircom.net
021-4883555/087-6290574

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not necessarily represent the views of the
Society or the Editor

**Deadline for next edition
November 1st**

New regulations signed by the Regulator on September 11th

Wireless Telegraphy (Experimenter's Licence) Regulations 2002

Main points:

- Morse reduced to 5 wpm
- No age restrictions
- Full licence immediately
- Power level increase

See page 4 for details

Summits On The Air

Colin GI0RQK setting up the 2m Yagi on
Cummedagh in the Mourne Mountains.
Joe EI7GY and Colin activated this sum-
mit on September 15th. (see page 12).



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Society Officers 2002/2003

President:	Dave Moore, EI4BZ.	021-4883555	ei4bz@eircom.net
Vice President:	Sean Nolan, EI7CD.	01-2851599	ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie
Secretary:	Sean Donelan EI4GK.	01-2821420	seandonelan@indigo.ie
Treasurer:	Brendan De hOra EIGV		ei3gv@eircom.net
AREN Co-Ordinator:	Stephen Wright EI5DD		wrights@eircom.net
Auditors:	Ger Gervin EI8CC, Tom McLoughlin EI400.		
Awards Committee:	Peter Grant EI4HX (Chair)	042-9332641	ei4hxperimental@eircom.net
	Sean Nolan, EI7CD.	01-2851599	ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie
	John McCarthy EI8JA		ei9dbb@eircom.net
Awards Historian:	Sean Nolan EI7CD	01-2851599	
Book Sales:	Peter Grant EI4HX.	042-9332641	ei4hxperimental@eircom.net
Contest Manager:	Noel Walsh EI2JC	0505-22283	nwalsh@eircom.ie
EMC:	Paul Kirkby EI6FE.	061-360122	ei6fe@eircom.net
Euro Com	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	
Gaeilge	Pádraig Ó Meachair EI7GK	0404-67658	ei7gk@esatclear.ie
HF/Awards/WEIC Manager	Sean Nolan EI7CD	01-2851599	ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie
IARABD	Joe Dillon EI4FV	01-8390812	sodioluin@eircom.net
IARU	Dave Moore, EI4BZ.	021-4883555	ei4bz@eircom.net
IARUMS	Thos Caffrey, EI2JD	087-2953256	thoscaffrey@hotmail.com
Membership Officer:	Joe Ryan EI7GY	01-2854250	jryan@iol.ie
Morse Testing Co-Ord.:	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	seandonelan@indigo.ie
Chief Morse Tester:	Dan Lloyd, EI3AE.		
P.O. Box Manager	Michael McNamara EI2CL		ei2cl@eircom.net
Publications Editor:	Dave Moore, EI4BZ	021-4883555	ei4bz@eircom.net
QSL Inwards Manager:	Pat Fitzpatrick, EI2HX.		
QSL Outwards Manager:	Hugh O'Donnell, EI2HI		
Incoming QSL Sub Managers:			
0,1, Series Calls & SWL:	Dermot Adams, EI7IX.		ei7ix@eircom.net
2 Series Calls:	Sean McMorro, EI6IN,		
3 Series Calls:	Jim Ryan, EI3DP,	021-4632365	sigma4@oceanfree.net
4 Series Calls:	Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX		
5 Series Calls:	Paul O'Kane EI5DI		paul@ei5di.com
6 Series Calls:	Rory Hinchey EI4DJB.		
7 Series Calls:	Dermot Adams, EI7IX.		ei7ix@eircom.net
8 Series Calls:	Gerald Kenneally EI8HT.		
9 Series Calls:	Declan Lennon, EI9HQ.		
Radio News Editor:	Mark Wall, EI7IS	087-6302026	ei7is@qsl.net
VHF Manager:	Joe Fadden EI3IX.	087-2381054	joe_fadden@yahoo.com
WAI Awards Manager:	Tom Rea EI2GP.	093-35523	tomrea@eircom.net
WAI Book Sales:	Noel Mulvihill EI6HW.	0902-74726	nfmulvihill@eircom.net
Webmaster	Leslie Long EI4DU		leslielong@eircom.net



From the Editor.....

Hello again,

Well, the big news this time must be the new regulations and the most immediate effect will be the Morse testing at 5 words per minute. A big crowd should present themselves for testing at the Cork rally.

See page four for more details.

The committee have not had time yet to consider all the implications of the new regulations but I am sure, much debate will take place at the next meeting and for quite a while after that.

There are quite a few areas that need clarification with the ODTR over the coming weeks.

If you have any comments or queries. Please contact the secretary, Sean EI4GK.

It was intended that the new Year book be mailed with this issue of Echo Ireland. However, following the announcement of the new regulations, it was decided to put it on hold for the moment.

Hopefully, it will be with you the next issue.

Don't forget that the latest call listings are available on the IRTS Website.

73

Dave EI4BZ

Terry McDermott (Senior) EI 1222 - Silent Key

Terry McDermott (Senior) EI 1222 from Limerick City passed away on August 22nd 2002.

Terry was a shortwave listener who enjoyed listening to the amateur bands and was active on the CB bands in earlier days.

He was foreman with Avery Scales in Limerick and had a keen interest in music being an accomplished banjo player. He was also very involved in art and his paintings can be found all over the globe.

He was the father of Terry (Junior) also an active shortwave listener.

We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Kathleen, three sons and two daughters.

GW3LFC A Silent Key Bob Copestake June 1920 - July 2002

Robert Redward Copestake was born in Birmingham on the 17th of June 1920. . Bob, as he was known, left school at the age of fourteen and served an apprenticeship with the Birmingham Electricity Supply - and this is where his interests in electronics was first nurtured.

In 1939, similar to all young men he joined the armed forces and because of his background was sent to enlist with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. They trained him in fighter aircraft maintenance.

This is where destiny steps in. He was shown the map of Great Britain and told to choose an airbase where there was a vacancy for electrical engineers. Penrhos near Pwllheli was chosen.

When, after a long train journey, he and his friend John Abbott arrived in Pwllheli station they almost stepped back on the train as "they couldn't understand the local dialect"

Bob met Ann and after their courtship they were married on the 7th of January 1942, living in a small cottage in Abersoch.

When the hostilities ended they moved to Birmingham. In Birmingham his electronic background was useful when he opened a small shop repairing radios and selling fishing tackle.

Eventually the family returned to Wales to live and settled first of all in Pistyll and then moved to Nefyn with their two daughters Nefina and Wendy. The girls were soon joined by Ian, Alan and April.

Bob was extremely interested in Amateur Radio and was issued with the callsign - GW3LFC.

I'm sure that there's many a Liverpool Football Club Fan who would give his right arm for that callsign!

This interest was passed on to Ann, his wife, and to both Wendy and Alan who also qualified as Amateurs under his



guidance.

For some years he held evening classes in Frondeg Pwllheli coaching several students to obtain their licences, by teaching the finer points of electronics and morse code.

He retired early due to ill health from his work and was by now able to pursue his hobbies. Many a happy hour was spent chatting to friends around the world. A particular bondship was made with the Irish Radio Fraternity. This led to visits to clubs in the Dublin area where Bob and Ann were very warmly received and many club members enjoyed seeing the face behind the voice on the mike.

His life was shattered three years ago by the death of his wife, Ann GW4YSV. They had been married for 57 years and he never fully recovered from this blow.

Bob will be warmly remembered by many Irish Amateurs for his many QSOs on the Dublin and Waterford repeaters.

May we, on behalf of all his Irish friends offer our sincere condolences to his family.

May he rest in peace.

Charlie EI2EM and Mary EI2FT

EI3EL Silent Key

Cathal Rosney EI3EL from Cellbridge, Co. Kildare, died suddenly on Sunday the 18th of August last.

Cathal was an active and well liked radio amateur and will be sadly missed by his family and by his friends in the amateur radio community.

May he rest in peace.

Wireless Telegraphy (Experimenter's Licence) Regulations 2002

The bringing into effect of an updated set of Regulations governing the Experimenter community is an event that must be welcomed by everybody with an interest in Amateur Radio.

The Regulations governing the hobby up to now effectively dated back to 1937 and their "sell by" date had long passed. Nonetheless, much of the content of the original regulations remains – although in modern garb.

The main provisions of the new Regulations are by now well known to most members:

The Morse test speed is reduced to 5 words per minute and the probationary year for Class A licences is no longer required. However a closer reading of the documents involved reveal quite a number of minor, sometimes subtle, changes that may have an impact either on the general body of the members or on individuals. This article is dedicated to identifying the changes introduced by the new regulations. It is not intended as a critical examination of the work of the ODTR, nor is it a reflection of the response that the IRTS will make to the new situation.

We all remember the provision that our licences were solely to enable us to conduct experiments in wireless telegraphy. That provision remains but has been expanded to include "engaging in self training in wireless telegraphy". The change is hardly likely to affect any of us but is, at least, an acknowledgement of the true position that exists.

A number of years ago IRTS fought a successful battle with the then regulator to have the age limit for holding a licence reduced from 16 years to 14 years. The new Regulations make no reference to age limits so let's get those Junior Ops on the air as soon as possible!

Renewal of licences in the past has

been a relatively relaxed operation with many licensees being somewhat dilatory in paying their licence fee. In fact, the 1937 Regulations allowed a one month period of grace following expiry date. The new Regulations specify that renewal fees must be paid before the expiration of the annual licence and there is no mention of a period of grace. Any licensee failing to renew before the expiry date is required to make application in full for a new licence. It is not clear what exactly "in full" means and if the ODTR intends to implement this draconian regulation or if the relaxed approach that applies at present will continue in force.

In the past, the authorities always had the option to refuse to renew a licence. This situation will not change but the new regulations set down specific headings that could be considered before renewal. These include compliance with the regulations, the management and efficient use of the radio spectrum and the avoidance of harmful interference. This strengthens the hand of the Director.

Under the heading of "Licence Conditions" we find a number of items that did not appear in the past, together with some variations of former conditions. The most controversial of the newly introduced conditions is that which states that the licence is conditional on the licensee obtaining "any other approvals, consents, licences, permissions, and authorities required by law for the installation, transport, maintenance, work and use of the station".

The ramifications of this section require very careful consideration.

The avoidance of interference has always been a licence condition but from here on out, every Irish Experimenter must ensure that the non-ionising radiation emissions from his station remain within international standards and that the installation,

maintenance and operation of the station "is carried on in such a manner as to ensure that the safety of persons or property is not endangered". Also under "Licence Conditions" is to be found the statement that access to, and use of, the station is restricted to the Licensee, any suitably qualified person or any person operating under the direct supervision of the Licensee. As you would expect, the Regulations include a provision for the amendment, revocation and suspension of a licence in certain circumstances which include contravention of the licence conditions or failure to comply with a direction of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation.

The new Regulations make no reference to log-books or indeed to specific records that must be maintained by the licensee. The Licensee must, however, "keep, for a period of not less than six months, all or any records which the Director informs the Licensee that he or she requires to be kept."

Part IV of the Licence document which forms part of the Regulations entitled "Particulars of Experimenters Station" lists the authorised frequencies applicable to Class A and Class B licences, respectively together with the maximum power permitted on each band.

The Maximum Power in each case is listed in dBW(r.m.s.) an unfamiliar measure for most Irish experimenters. There is one major difference, though, that has an impact on power levels. The document states that the Maximum Power is the power measured at the output of the transmitter or amplifier.

All previous Regulations specified that Power levels be measured at the input of the transmitter final amplifier. In future issues of Echo Ireland guidance as to the implications of these changes will be provided.

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Data modes are recognised in the Regulations for the first time. G1B is included under the heading "Emission Classifications" and under "Licence Conditions" it is stated that where data transmission modes are used, any communications must not be encrypted.

"Technical Conditions of Experimenter's Station" is the title of part VI of the Licence document and it sets forth the standards required of a Licensee's equipment.

This is dedicated to ensuring that the risk of harmful interference and the safety of persons or property is minimised.

Reference is made to "best practice" and to "good system engineering" and standards for spurious emissions in line with those of the Radio Regulations of the ITU are specified.

Test Equipment required to be maintained by the Licensee is specified as "a device capable of measuring Standing Wave Ratio and an accurate method to ensure that operations take place on the correct frequency".

It is in this section also that reference is made to the Morse Testing Speed with the notation "five words per minute or the speed resulting from agreement by either CEPT or ITU whichever is the lesser value"

No doubt much discussion and analysis will take place over the coming months concerning the benefits or otherwise of the various provisions in the new Regulations.

Whatever their strengths or failings, the new Regulations were long overdue and introduce a much needed breathe of fresh air to the dusty world of the 1937 Regulations.

The three documents forming the 2002 Regulations may be downloaded from the ODTR Website www.odtr.ie or purchased from the Government Publications Sales Office, Sun Alliance House, Molesworth St., Dublin 2, Price €3.81.

Quick off the Mark!

Congratulations to Mark Condon EI7FNB, who took and passed the new 5 words per minute Morse test recently. Mark, who is believed to be the first EI taking advantage of the new 5 words per minute test, is now awaiting his new "A" call. Mark was studying Morse with South Dublin Radio Club.



A number of his fellow students are working towards taking the test at the Cork Rally. Joe EI7GY and Jim EI4HH, who are looking after the SDR Morse class this year, are confident that ten or more of their pupils will have "A" licences before the end of the year.



Kyle EI9FGB who climbed Tonlague, County Wicklow's second highest peak and participated in the Autumn leg of the IRTS 2 Metre Counties Contest.

Italy's ARI 75th Anniversary Awards

Italy's National Society Associazione Radioamatori Italiani (ARI), is celebrating its 75th anniversary during 2002 and to mark the occasion they are issuing two new operating awards.

The first award requires that you work at least 50 different provinces and two special stations.
There are 103 valid provinces.

The second award requires that you collect 75 points by working Italian station at one point each.

There are six special stations which are worth three points each. You may only work any three of these.

Have a look at the following website for full details of both awards:
<<http://www.ari.it>>

Cork Radio Club

Cork Radio Club participated part in the recent SSB Field Day from the usual venue at EI7FD's QTH in Glanmire.

the event got many of the clubs less active members on the air and a good time was had by all

In October CRC members will experiment with 2.4GHz data transmissions from the club QTH
Anyone interested in microwave linking are welcome to attend.

Shannon Basin Radio Club

Shannon Basin Radio Club resumed meetings after the summer break at the Royal Hotel, Roscommon on Tuesday the 3rd of September 2002
Meetings are held monthly and new members are always welcome.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society Outgoing QSL Bureau

Cards for the outgoing bureau should be sent to
The Outgoing QSL Manager

Hugh O'Donnell, EI2HI
Baurleigh, Bandon,
Co. Cork.



On The Air

With Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY

Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY,
13 Hazel Road, Togher, Cork
ei2hy@iol.ie

Welcome to another "On The Air" issue. At last it seems that the higher bands are coming back to life as we leave the Summer conditions behind and move into the Autumn. With the Equinox occurring on September 23rd (at 04:48UTC) ten metres should open up a bit more, indeed during the Saturday morning of the All Asian Contest on the weekend of September 7/8 there was an opening towards the Pacific with 5W1SA and V63KZ been quite easy to work from EI.

Unfortunately these conditions were enhanced propagation due to a C-Class Flare, the effects of which swept past the Earth just after the start of our own Region One SSB Field Day and led to terrible conditions for anyone out under canvas.

At one stage the only signal to be heard late on Saturday night of the Field Day was a YL op at LA1N/P calling forlornly into the Aurora filled sky!

All this renewed activity has lead to speculation that there might be a third peak to the cycle which would be very unusual and outside the norm for an average cycle, even one that's double peaked like this one. Cycles normally drop off a lot slower than they rise so this is probably just a prolonged level of activity and should start to decline gradually towards the end of this year, maybe just about enough time for one more excellent ARRL 10m contest in December hi!

Band Reports

Early morning operating still seems to produce the "goodies" on **20m** with good signals from the Pacific and Oceania. ZL2HE was active, in between the snorkelling, from Vanuatu as YJ0HE and was sharing the pile-ups with Masa, JE1DXC, who's now on the Banks Islands (OC-104) using the same call he had a few months ago, YJ0AXC, while Clark, N5XX, came on from Niue Island (OC-040) with the call ZK2XX and briefly caused a stir in the DX community by appearing as ZK1XXX from Beverage Reef. This lies approximately at 20 Degrees South, 168 Degrees West, but seems to be submerged all the time

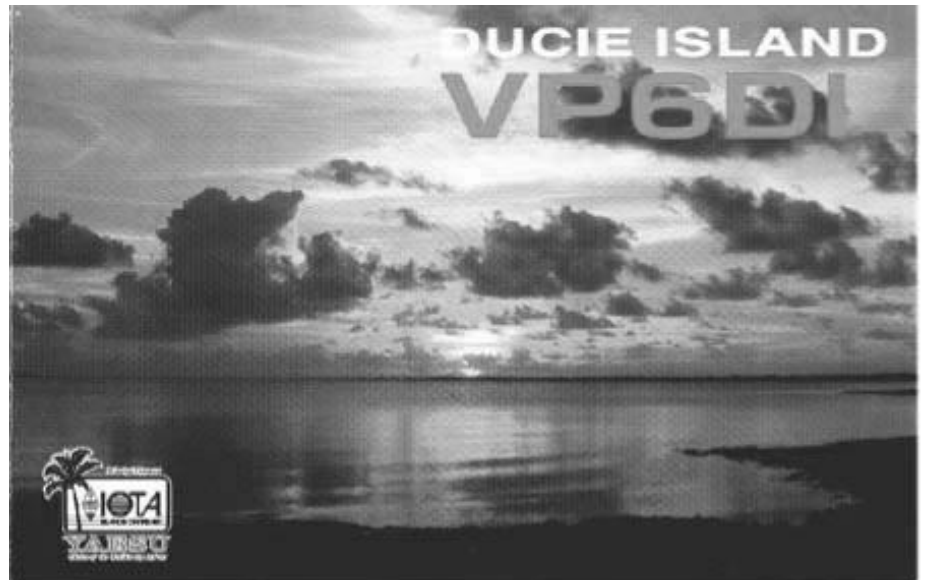
and therefore would only seem to count as a novelty contact, thought we might have had shades of the Scarborough Reef (BS7) controversy from a few years back. Clark is now on from Tonga as A35XX.

The rarest game that was on though was Jake, who got a taste of pile-up fever from Wake Island (OC-053) as N6XIV/KH9 another one of the famous "King Henry" Entities which lie directly over the North Pole from EI and can proof

as what happened to Midway Island (KH4).

After the unique DT prefixes from South Korea during the World Cup, DT14AG came on to promote the 14th Asian Games.

Causing a bit of confusion with prefixes some Bulgarian ops came on from Turkey's Black Sea Islands group (EU-186) with the calls TB05GF and YM05GF, that's "zero five" in the call. QSL both calls to LZ1NK.



elusive to bag, indeed I only managed to hear Jake just the once and then at a warty "four by one" which as he's using 70 watts to a dipole strung up in the palm trees at 30 feet says it all.

Wake Island really consists of three separate coral atolls: Wake Island itself, Peale Island and Wilkes Island, all three form part of the rim of an extinct underwater volcano, the central lagoon been the crater, total area is 6.5 sq km, it's famous for being captured by the Japanese in 1941 during the Second World War and held until the end of the war.

Staying with the KH's, future trips to Johnston Island (KH3) might prove to be more difficult as the US Army has plans to permanently close it's chemical weapons disposal facility on the Atoll and hand over administration back to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, all of which means less personnel and less flights to the Island, much the same way

Stations in Mexico came on sporting the unusual 6J prefix, Roberto, EA4DX, was very active from Providencia Island (NA-049) as EA4DX/HK0 and finished up with 10,458 QSO's.

Pedro, HK3JJH, is once again on the Island hopping scene been QRV from SA-078 and SA-040 as HK3JJH/1.

Moving away from the Islands for a while an unusual event took place in Tajikistan (EY) when Vladimir, EY8HB, and two non ham friends climbed an un-named 5,879 metres high mountain successfully and as its tradition for the first person up to name a previously unclimbed peak we hams now have "Amateur Radio Peak", courtesy of Vladimir!

If that wasn't enough they also left a solar powered beacon on 28.107.5 MHz running one watt and signing EY1ARP. Long term DX'ers and Island chasers

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will welcome the fact that Mal, VK6LC, is once more back on the Island hopping business after activating numerous new ones and “retiring” from it for a while. He was active from Magnetic Island (OC-171) before moving onto Thursday Island (OC-138) between Sept 6-8 and using VK6LC/4 on both trips.

Alex, PA3DZN, who was very active a few years ago from Africa as TL5A and 9X5EE returned to Kenya as part of a UNICEF assignment and already is burning up the bands with 5Z4DZ. Expect to hear this call on all bands for the next two or three years.

QSL's go to PA1AW.

Also on assignment in Africa is Peter, G3WQU, who many of you may have worked as E4/G3WQU in Palestine but is now active until at least 2004 from Morocco as CN2PM. QSL's go direct to: Peter McKay, c/o MINURSO, PO 80000, Laayoune, Western Sahara, Morocco.

YL DXCC chasers were kept happy when IZ2ELV took time out from her honeymoon to give out the Maldives as 8Q7LY, while the British DX-pedition there as 8Q7ZZ were an excellent example of young operators with an average age of 17 doing a great job at managing the pile-ups.

In amongst the DX we of course had the inevitable “slims” making life difficult when Ed, P5/4L4FN, supposedly came on CW a few evenings but said himself that he as yet does not have permission to operate on this mode. He's very much QRV on RTTY so it might be time to change to the keyboard mode to now catch North Korea as Ed's SSB activity is a bit down at the moment.

Also playing games was HV0A from the Vatican. H44A is an “emergency” ready club station which, even though they are very active, say they do not QSL so do not command the same big pile-ups hi!

As reported in the last issue the large group of Norwegian Amateurs came on as scheduled from Market Reef (EU-053) as OJ0LA and had huge signals on almost all the bands, while Island hunters were kept happy when G0KBO first came on from AS-044 as RI0CA and then from AS-114 as RI0CB.

One of the rarer South Cook Islands group was on air when Wolf put OC-124 on air as ZK1SCQ with cards going

to DL6DK.

To commemorate the tragedy of September 11th last year a number of stations came on to honour the day, lead station was W2WTC operating from “Ground Zero” in New York, K4P operating from the Pentagon and worldwide we had ZK1USA from South Cook Islands and ZY7USA from Brazil.

With the bands finally picking up maybe I'll start to see a few more log extracts been sent to me, just got the one this issue and it's reliable stalwart Chuck, EI4IS, which comes to the rescue once again with, I'm glad to note, a largely IOTA packed log extract:

Amongst the DX were TM5Y (EU-064), FP5KE, VE1OTA/P (NA-127), W1RQ (NA-046), OH6/IK3GES (EU-101), EG9IA (AF-042), R1MVI (EU-117), FG/IK2JYT who was on Les Saintes Islands (NA-114) a separate IOTA group from Guadeloupe, XY5T, KH6DV, OX3LG (NA-220), ZK1SCQ (OC-124), RI0CB (AS-114), N2CW/3 (NA-140), LZ1BJ/1 (EU-181) and EA4DX/HK0 (NA-049), all QSO's were on **20m**.

Up And Coming

A lot happening during the next few weeks with possibly the news that's the most exciting being that a large group of JA's are going to Ogasawara Island (JD1) as part of the celebrations for the 75th Anniversary of the JARL.

The best part is that it's a long term trip from Sept 15 right through to Jan 31 2003 with various ops rotating from month to month. The call sign announced is 8J1OGA and a second call 8N1OGA is planned as well. The group are fully kitted out with amplifiers, the first time that full legal power will be used on Ogasawara, and Yagis for all the higher bands.

TO8MZ will be Bernie, F6BLK, on Mayotte Island (AF-027) from Sept 30-Oct 09. Staying in that area Jacques, FR5ZU, has announced plans to be on Europa (FR/E) possibly June or September next year. Europa Island (AF-009) hasn't seen activity in a good number of years and will be eagerly awaited.

Island chasers will also be eagerly awaiting the activation of a new group in Victoria, South Australia.

Lady Julia Percy Island is only one of two possible Islands to qualify for the as

yet un-numbered Victoria State West Group and thanks to the main operator Paul, VK3KXG, being a very keen ornithologist he got permission for himself and a small group of hams to go there from Sept 27-30 to perform bird studies, in between the RF sessions of course!

From studying birds to studying wild horses, Lali, VE3NE, has obtained permission to land on Sable Island (CY0) between Nov 15-25. This Island (really only a sandbar 18 miles long and a mile wide) lies about 180 miles ESE of Halifax, Nova Scotia and has a reputation for being the “Graveyard of the Atlantic”. The crescent shaped Island is really the summit of a massive underwater bank which formed at the point where the warm Gulf Stream and the cooler Labrador currents collide together and consists of two parallel rows of sand dunes, some rising to 75 feet.

This mixing of warm and cold waters leads to constant fog banks, strong eddies, low pressure systems and can make Sable quite a challenge to land on, after you get the proper permits from the Canadian Coast Guard who control the access.

The call CY0MM has been applied for. The South Pacific seems to be the place to head for in October for some Europeans with Bengt, SM7EQL, and Ronnie, SM7DKF, to tour some of the South Cook Islands as ZK1EQL and ZK1DKF. First off is Rarotonga (OC-013) from Oct 1-3 followed by Mangaia (OC-159) Oct 4-11 and then back to Rarotonga to finish up the trip from Oct 12-14.

Kenji, JA4GXS and his XYL will operate from Rangiroa (OC-066) in French Polynesia as FO/JA4GXS between Oct 8-13. Almost due east we find HK8HIX/P, HK8RQS/P and HK8UUC/P planning an assault on Morro Island (SA-081), part of the Narino Division group in Colombia, all this due to take place on Oct 11-14 with cards been handled by EA5KB.

Keeping you Island chasers on the ball also will be Barry, ZS1FJ who hopes to land on AF-077 around Sept 28th, depending on weather.

No such problems for Joe, KE6SGA, and Bill, KA6SPQ, who will utilise a helicopter lift from the US Coast Guard to activate St. George Reef Lighthouse (NA-184) for 24 hours from Oct 19-20.

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The month of October of course has the "Big Daddy" of HF Contests in the form of the CQ WW SSB Contest, which this year will have a new category, the Multi-op/Two transmitter.

This new category, the first in many years, will allow a Multi Single station to have a second operator run a second rig on the other bands without having to resort to the Multi-Multi option of a transmitter (and operator) on every band.

This contest has many Hams heading to all parts of the globe to operate from either a rare DXCC Entity or a rare CQ Zone, these two, DXCC and Zone been the multipliers.

Amongst the announced trips are members of the Florida DXpedition Group heading to the Dominican Republic as HI9X. Albert NH7A has plans to be QRV from Martinique (FM) with, he hopes, a TO5 callsign.

Jose, CT1BOH, will forgo the European Mainland to head south of the Equator to operate from Fernando De Noronha (SA-003) as PT0F.

Look out for VC2C from the rare Zone 2 in Canada while some Italians will hand out Zone 35 from Benin (TY).

Also in Africa will be Christian, 6W/F6HLC and Jim, W7EJ, operating as CN2R.

V63B should be holding court from Micronesia while the Kermadec DX Association will be very much QRV from the Chatham Islands during October with an entry in the CQ WW Test. The last time they were on Chatham they used ZL7AA so that might be used again.

As a lot of these and other stations normally operate before and after the Contest it might be a good time to work on the recently announced 30 metre DXCC Award, starting from October the First, even though DXCC Credit listings have your totals listed since the start of the year. The awards will be dated but not numbered, so check out your 10 MHz cards and see can you qualify.

That wraps up this issue, my thanks to the Daily DX, Chuck, EI4IS, and our own editor Dave, EI4BZ, for snippets of news items, until next issue,

Keep Listening.
73 de EI2HY.

Club Roundup

South Dublin Radio Club

With a view to increasing the number of operators active in the recent 2 metre Counties Contest, members of South Dublin Radio Club entered the contest from four different locations.

Mark EI7FNB and Joe EI7GY activated the club call EI2SDR from the Ridge of Cappard in County Laois, and Kyle EI9FGB climbed Tonlagee, County Wicklow's second highest peak.

Mark EI9IB operated from his home QTH in Kildare, while Nicky EI9JF operated from his QTH (also in County Kildare), accompanied by Nick EI5FLB and Mike EI9FFB.

All stations reported good scores: although fewer counties appeared to be active than on previous occasions, good band conditions kept the totals up. For once, the weather was excellent, which was particularly welcomed by the portable station operators.

On Tuesday, 3rd September, a twelve week Morse course commenced at the SDR QTH in Marian Road, Rathfarnham. It is hoped that, at the end of this period, pupils will be in a position to sit the Morse exam.

Anyone interested in joining this course should come along to the club meeting on Tuesday, which starts at 8.00 pm.

Joe EI7GY

Dundalk Amateur Radio Society

The HF SSB Field Day took place recently on the 7th and 8th of September. One of the few Irish entries in the contest was EI2JD/p.

This team consisted of Pat EI2HX (Co. Louth), Peter EI4HX (Co. Louth), Mark EI9IB (Co. Kildare), Mark EI7FNB (Co. Dublin) and Thos EI2JD (Co. Louth). The team set up a portable station in Clogherhead beside the QTH of Thos EI2JD. The set up was simple as they were entering the restricted section of the contest. The antenna was a G5RV at 30 feet and the radio was a Kenwood TS2000 with 100w. Logging was made easy by the use of SD (EI5DI) logging programme.

Conditions on the bands were by no means good, in fact they were very bad which meant it was hard work getting the contacts. The team still managed to log 361 QSO's and they would like to thank all EI's who called in for the contact and indeed the points.

The nicest contact was VP8DBR on 10m from the Falklands.

Others included:

GI,MM,GW,G,GD,F,HB9,OE,DL,PI,EA,CT,HA,IS0,ON,OZ,OM,ES,
EM,EW,LA,OH,LX,S5,YO,LZ,TA,UA9,IT9,JY,J4,LU,PY,HK,WP4.

The team would like to thank Jenny and Mary for all their hard work in the catering department.

Good luck to all other contestants and hear you on the bands next time around.

Next time OPEN SECTION.



EI2JD/p

Pat EI2HX,
Peter EI4HX,
Mark EI9IB,
Thos EI2JD.
(EI7FNB. - asleep
somewhere).

45th Jamboree On The Air 2002

October 19th & 20th

What is Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) ?

When Scouts want to meet young people from another country they usually think of attending a World Jamboree or another international gathering. But few people realize that each year about half-a-million Scouts and Guides "get together" over the airwaves for the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA).

Modern communication technology offers Scouts the exciting opportunity to make friends in other countries without even leaving home.

The JOTA is an annual event in which Scouts and Guides all over the world speak to each other by means of amateur radio contacts. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared, via the radio waves.

Since 1958 when the first Jamboree-On-The-Air was held, thousands of Scouts and Guides have "met" each other through this event.

Not only is it fun to talk to Scouts from other parts of the world but it provides also a chance to find out about other countries and about Scouting elsewhere. Many contacts made during the JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between scout troops that have lasted for many years.

With no restrictions on age, on the number that can participate and at little or no expense, the JOTA provides an opportunity for Scouts and Guides to contact each other by amateur radio.

The radio stations are operated by licensed amateur radio operators. Many Scouts and leaders hold licenses and have their own stations, but the majority participates in the JOTA through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual radio amateurs.

Today some operators even use television or computer linked communications.

Date and duration of the event

The world-wide Jamboree-On-The-Air is organized to coincide with the third full weekend of October each year.

The event starts at 00.00 hours local time on the Saturday and concludes 48 hours later at 24.00 hours local time on

the Sunday. Each station can choose its own operating hours within this period.

How to take part in JOTA?

First contact a local amateur radio operator, or amateur radio club and ask for help. Alternatively contact the National JOTA Organiser (NJO) at

njo@scoutingirelandcsi.com who will be able to give you the name and address of a radio amateur or amateur radio club in your area.

In order to ensure that your Unit / Region has a special event Callsign for JOTA and that the local amateur radio operator or amateur radio club can assemble equipment and arrange for a special event Callsign you should make contact early September.

What Callsign should be used?

It can either be a special event Callsign for JOTA or the amateur radio operator's or amateur radio club's own Callsign.

In consultation with the local amateur radio operator decide which call will be used. If it is decided to use a special event Callsign, the local amateur radio operator will have to apply to the Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation (ODTR).

Special event Callsigns for JOTA must have the letters SJ in the suffix (i.e. EI4XSJ or EI7SJX).

If an amateur radio operator's or a club Callsign is used the extension /J (i.e. EI9XX/J or EI0XXX/J) should be used.

Where can JOTA be held?

Anywhere Scouts meet - in a Scout Den or Campsite.

What paperwork is involved?

All contacts must be logged. The local amateur radio operator or amateur radio club will have their own logbooks. Contacts can also be logged on computer. It is also recommended that a QSL (confirmation) card be sent to all stations contacted. The local amateur radio operator can advise on designs. Also a competition can be held for Scouts to design a QSL card for the Unit / Region.

Unit / Regions are also requested to register their stations so that other units or

individual Scouts can be told where there is a JOTA station in their area, and complete a brief report (including photographs and press cuttings etc.) which will form part of the NJO's report to the WOSM. Registration and report forms are available from Headquarters or the NJO.

What preparation is needed?

Scouts should be taught the phonetic alphabet. A chart showing the phonetic alphabet should be on display at the station. For the Scouts' first contacts their greetings should be written out (i.e. My name is David - Delta Alpha, Victor, India, Delta, I am __ years old, my hobbies are __ etc.) until they get the confidence to operate without aids. (This does not take long).

Charts displaying calling procedures (i.e. CQ Jamboree, CQ Jamboree, This is India Echo Four X-Ray Sierra Juliet India Echo Four X-Ray Sierra Juliet India Echo Four X-Ray Sierra Juliet calling and standing by) should also be on display.

Where can I get further information?

National JOTA Organiser :

Sean O'Sullivan

Phone **041-982 7304 (Home)**
087-232 6994 (Mobile)

Email

njo@scoutingirelandcsi.com

Useful Web Pages

World JOTA Organiser

<http://www.middelkoop7.myweb.nl/>

Nederland Radio Scouting Resources

http://www.joti.scouting.nl/index_uk.html

UK Radio Scouting Online

<http://www.radio-scouting.org.uk/original/index.html>

United States JOTA Pages

<http://www.scouting.org/international/jota.html>

Australia JOTA Resources

<http://www.scouts.com.au/main.html?page=/international/jotafront.html>



The Vanishing Ham!

By John Lofthouse, EI3DIB

This past year the number of users of the packet system has fallen to an all time low such that both Southern BBS Sysops are close to closing down.

This made me think about old times and the changes.

This article is my own personal view and I do not expect everyone to agree.

As a child aged about 9 I obtained a circuit for a crystal set, simple enough and with father and uncles in the radio repair business, parts were not a problem. My first set used the older cats whisker, which for the un-initiated, was a lump of crystal held in a clamp one side, a small coil, sharp and pointed clamped in a spring loaded bar that you moved around to probe the crystal with, crystal was connected to one side of circuit and the probe to the other, older hams will remember the basic set up.

A Long Wire - plus a good earth were essential as were the more difficult to get hold of high impedance headphones but hey I had family in the business and after twiddling and probing I heard something and to my delight and mothers irritation I was able to fall asleep listening to the BBC and stories like, A Ghost at Bedtime!

Coils were wound on old formers and experimentally made of random turns and the variable capacitor was changed as was the cats whisker replaced by a diode, here I should say that I had little real understanding at that time just experimented but new stations abounded and I was HOOKED. A one valve battery heated circuit followed as did my intro to the world of the ham then finally I sat the exam and got a licence.

A keen interest in construction and general DIY side of radio had me doing much modification of CB radios adding tighter crystal filters for the local lads who found that in the London area the limited 40 channels were very

busy at all times but as I was now a licensed ham I had the advantage of my 2 Meter Rig.

But was that a real advantage as most of the time back then it was almost impossible to find a simplex frequency or repeater that was not crammed with voices 24 hours a day, so I chose to try RTTY, with it's dedicated frequency and plenty of activity.

RTTY had one problem, it was a direct simplex only activity, you could listen in and or even join in to group activity but only within a limited range, then came Packet, simple interface and my old C64!!!

Ah this was something new and it was great, we had NODES so distance was no longer a problem, connected to Cork from Wimbledon one evening!!! Took a while to make the link but back came the thrill I first experienced when my tuning and probing of that crystal rock first produced Voices!!!

We moved to South Tipperary in 1987 and at the time voice activity on VHF was high and with my packet equipment I was able to sign on to the WANG BBS and mail flowed between old friends and new, everything as they say in the garden was rosy.

Back then as packet interest grew, it was blamed for the loss of voices on simplex and repeater frequencies. Much activity to improve links and install Nodes was order of day, then the internet arrived, expensive but error free. Like packet it rapidly gained interest as PC prices fell.

This new internet facility had one thing going for it which was to a Ham! A problem no one noticed?

Alas for ham radio the internet needs no licence and no exam, enough cash to buy a PC with modem, plug in, switch on and sign on to an ISP then the WORLD is your oyster.

Looking back over my experiences I could say it was just the standard learning curve progress being what it is there is nothing odd about it!!! But as the number of users on the BBS has fallen I get this feeling and the big questions, WHY?

The busy times on voice radio were replaced by slacker times as packet took hold and of course non packet users blamed the quiet times on packet itself. As the internet gained popularity it too was then blamed for the switch from packet and to some extent both are true, but what now bothers me?

Most is that at each turn, every yard down this one way street there has been no return to past activity. Voice to packet was not so bad because at least it was still radio, but this switch to the internet with all the advantages it may have, could it be sounding the death knell to ham radio?

Ask any youngster and explain about ham radio. Ah yes they will say, but I have all that and more with the internet and the new PC I got for Christmas!!!

How long has your RADIO been ON lately?

How much time do you spend on the internet looking for answers to something that perhaps if only you bothered to ask, a ham somewhere out there will have the answer?

Yes it can be slower perhaps but hey this is our hobby. In Ireland we have 3.5 Million potential internet users, no licence and no test just make the phone lines busy.

Ireland has 2000 +/- users with exclusive use of a radio spectrum the commercial interests would love to get hold of and for most of the time these days it is CLEAR!!! Not a sound from anyone, Dublin and Cork can even be quiet and very often get no response to call's, so have we now come so far that ham radio is sick and in need of a fix?

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Is this the end?

Where is all the NEW blood? Has the horse bolted with the stable door wide open?

I may be guilty myself of not being very voice active but I have kept the TIPBBS running 24 hours a day 7 days a week for many years and no matter what may be said, it is after all still RADIO!!

Now due to the lack of users I, like WATBBS, may close and what do I find on the other frequencies?

Nothing, No one!!!

All it appears have moved to the internet, Use it or lose it has been mooted many times and never so true as NOW, 20:00 on a wet Wednesday evening and all I can hear is a GI on R3.

Long ago the radio experimenters were given the then unusable high frequencies and they found a way to use them, we have now come full circle and the low frequencies are being handed out for experiment because they are not suitable for new utilities like mobile phones etc.

No doubt the authorities would like to take back and in some places have, our now usable high frequencies but this presents one very big problem?

Older hams will have used home brew and real down to earth hard work to make something that while it may have been large! it worked, while today, everything comes in a black box that you just switch on, parts have got smaller and more compact and even I am often unable to repair some things even with the aid of a magnifying glass!

Where do we go from here?

Have we forgotten the old ways and left them aside for the new and if so is ham radio like the ham radio experimenter vanishing into the history book?

On the other hand have they all gone to HF in an effort to make me learn CW?

Perish the thought! Oh drat, I just dropped that 100-ohm surface mount resistor, now where the heck is my microscope!!!

John EI3DIB

Blast from the Past

Pictures from the archives preserved by
the late Jimmy Upton EI8Z



Field Day Operating

Tom Green EI9N (with wave meter checking for radiation. Capt. Andy Woods EI3L operating and Ian Morris EI6U checking the batteries. (date unknown)



Field Day Enniskerry 1957

Ambrose McNamara EI8A, Andy Woods EI3L,
Alan Jackson EI8L (on key), Victor Stewart EI7E and Tom Fay EI6K.

John EI6ARB Wins PW Trophy Clock

John O'Sullivan EI6ARB has won the EI/GI Trophy Clock, which is presented to the leading EI/GI operator in the annual Practical Wireless 2 Metres QRP Contest.

The trophy is sponsored by Rob Mannion G3XFD/EI5IW, Editor of Practical Wireless.



SOTA - Summits on the Air Activation in County Down



On Sunday 15th September, Colin G10RQK and Joe EI7GY activated Slieve Commedagh in County Down.

Commedagh is 770 metres above sea level and is in the Mourne Mountains, near to Slieve Donard, the highest mountain in Ulster. The climb starts in New-castle, at sea level, so carrying radios, batteries and antennas, it is a 2 hour trek to the top. Fortunately, the weather on the day was excellent.

The first contacts of the day were on 2 metres. Using just half a watt to a five-eighths vertical, Colin and Joe were able to make simplex contacts to Dublin.

They then set up a 3 element Tonna for 2 metres and a half-wave dipole for 40 metres.

Using a Yaesu FT-817 for 2 metres and 70 cms, and an IC-706 for 40 metres, Colin and Joe were kept busy for the afternoon.

They had phone and CW contacts with stations all over Ireland and Britain,

while there were a few continental European stations in the HF log.

Power on VHF was between half a watt and two and a half watts, on HF it was 20 watts. Despite the modest power levels used, good signal reports were received all round.

The activation of Slieve Commedagh was part of the Summits On The Air (SOTA) programme, which was established recently.

There are active SOTA programmes in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Greece and Italy.

Joe EI7GY is putting together a SOTA programme for EI, which involves listing the summits and assigning points to them depending on the relative heights of different summits.

Already he has offers of help from the West of Ireland, and he would like to hear from others, particularly from those familiar with the Tipperary/Cork/Kerry area.

Top Picture shows Colin G10RQK and bottom one shows Joe EI7GY.

VHF NEWS UPDATE

2 meters.

The Autumn leg of the 2 meters Counties contest took place on Sunday 25th August, from 1400 - 1600 (local time). Activity levels were quite high, better than previous Autumn legs of this contest.

Hopefully, all participants will by now have submitted their logs to the Contest Manager.-Noel Walsh EI2JC

4 meters.

Don't forget that this year the I.R.T.S will be presenting Four Meter Shield donated by John Corless EI7IQ to the leading 4 meter experimenter in EI. Rules for this shield are the same as for the 6 meter shield: unique QSO's x Maidenhead grid squares x DXCC countries worked.

Squares table 2002.

The squares table has been up and running again this year, please send in your maidenhead scores if you are an active VHF operator on 2 meters, 4 meters, 6 meters, 70Cm, 23Cm or above !

The squares table is published in each edition of Echo Ireland. The up to date scores can be found on EI7GL's webpage, www.qsl.net/ei7gl under the heading Squares table 2002.

International Space Station

The ISS made a number of passes south of EI during the past week. Quite a number of experimenters have RS0ISS in their logs (Phone & packet). Region 1 uplink, 145.200 MHz FM & downlink 145.800 MHz FM.

Two good links with plenty of ISS info :

<http://www.heaves-above.com>

<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/tracking/index.html>

Any ideas for VHF/UHF activity ???

If anyone has any ideas for VHF/UHF activity, please let me know, almost anything is worth a try to bring more life to this end of the spectrum.

I can be contacted at :

Joe_fadden@yahoo.com

Regards

Joe EI3IX

(VHF Manager)



Reading the Mail

By

Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #20 of "Reading the Mail" – an account of IRTS QSL Bureau activity from 27 April to 6 September 2002.

During the time small packets of cards (less than 1 kilo) came from CARS Cyprus, EDR Denmark, FRC Cuba, LABRE (Belo Horizonte), LABRE (Curitiba), LABRE (Porto Alegre), LRMD Lithuania, MARL Malta, Québec QSL Buro, RCA Argentina, ROARS Oman, Uzbekistan QSL Buro, YL-Buro Latvia and ZARS Zimbabwe.

In addition larger lots came from ARRL, CRC Russia, Dutch QSL Buro, JARL, PZK, REF, REP Portugal, SARL, SSA, (1 - 2 kilos each), CRC Czech Republic and URE (4 kilos each), RSGB (6 and 5.1kilos) and DARC (12 kilos).

While sorting the cards the following were noticed and thought worthy of mention: CX/LU7CC, DL0EUR, E30NA, E4/OK2BZM, EO8141ZPN, ER2000B, ET3AA, GB99SQN, HF1SSS, KC8IM (29FM), LU7CC, L99D, M2000Y/MRA12, M2001Y/MRU79, MB2HFC, RH1E/UA9XMC, SI9AM, SI900TKM, S21YJ, T9/DJ6MS, TT8SK, TT8JLB, UA1OMS, XU7AAV, XW2A, V5/DJ9KH, W1K, W1AW/80, XV3AA, YK9A, YU8/9X0A, ZA/OK1JR, Z21KQ (50MHz), 2E0000, 3W6DK, 5V7VJ, 6W/DK8YY, 7S0Z, 9G5MD, 9K9O and 9X0A.

Also very obvious was the large number of cards reflecting activity on 50MHz with many different areas of Canada, Canary Islands, Puerto Rico and the USA.

As well as cards from many Finnish, French, Danish, German, Russian, Spanish and Swedish islands, for island chasers the following were noticed: AI59/CY9, WA4RX/CY9, AY0N/X, BV/JA0ID, CE0ZR, CU8/DJ6SI, D68C, ED1CL, EI/G6UW/P, FO0BOG, FO0FRA, FO0MCA, GB0HI, HC8N, IH9/OL5Y, JW/OK1XC, JW0A (1983 qso), JW0PK, KH0A, KH0/JH0SPE, KL7/DL1YMK, LU1ZC, LU8XW, NH6WL, OJ0/OE1ZKC, OJ0/SM0GNS/p, T88DX, TS7N, TX0DX, UA1OMS/1, UA0FCD, VK9XY, VK9CXW, VU2SBJ, WH6LU, YP1W, ZD9HGW, ZK1AXU, ZK1NDK, ZL7/G3SXW, 2S5VG/P, 3G0Y, 4W/K7BV, 5T5YD/p, 5Z4WI, 6W1QV/p and 8S0W.

Congratulations to all concerned.

For now, all best wishes and lots of good DX.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL.

Contest Calendar

October

5th	1500-1859	EU Autumn Sprint	SSB
6th	0700-1900	RSGB 21/28MHz	SSB
5/6th	0800-0800	Oceania DX	SSB
12/13th	0800-0800	Oceania DX	CW
12th	1500-1859	EU Autumn Sprint	CW
19/20th	1500-1500	Worked All Germany	CW
20th	0700-1900	RSGB 21/28MHz	CW
26/27th	0001-2359	CQWW DX	SSB
26/27th	0001-2359	10-10 International QSO party	CW

November

2nd	0600-1000	IPA Radio Club Contest	CW
2nd	1400-1800	IPA Radio Club Contest	CW
2/3rd	1200-1200	Ukrainian DX Contest	CW/SSB/RTTY
3rd	0600-1000	IPA Radio Club Contest	SSB
3rd	1400-1800	IPA Radio Club Contest	SSB
8/10th	2300-2300	Japan International DX	SSB
9/10th	0000-2359	Worked All Europe	RTTY
16/17th	2100-0100	RSGB Top Band Contest	CW



Well known VHF operator Thos EI2JD from Clogherhead, Co. Louth operating in a recent contest.

DXCC Announces New 30 Metre Award

DXCC is pleased to announce the addition of the 30-Meter (10 MHz) Single Band DXCC award.

Applications for this award will be accepted beginning October 1, 2002.

30-Meter DXCC certificates will be dated but not numbered.

30-Meter credits will count toward the DeSoto Cup competition ending September 30, 2003.

They will also be included in the DXCC Annual List totals for the period ending on that date.

A 30-Meter endorsement to 5 Band DXCC will also be available.

The 30-meter band was added to the standard printout in January 2002.

If you received a copy of your record since then, you already have a copy of your 30-meter credits.

If you do not know which credits you have on 30 meters, you can contact DXCC for a copy of your record.

If you have web access and can handle ADOBE (pdf) files, contact DXCC at dxcc@arrl.org for a copy of your record.

If you do not have web access, please send a note to DXCC along with \$2.00 (US and Canada), \$4.00 (outside the US and Canada) for postage and handling.

For further information, please contact DXCC at dxcc@arrl.org



VHF/UHF

With Charles Coughlan EI5FK

The 70 Centimetre band is perceived by many to be a VHF local chat band or for satellite working, possibly 432MHz up-link and 144MHz downlink.

Antennae are smaller compared to 2 metres but transmission line losses are high, unless high quality coaxial cable like Westflex 103 or better is used.

10 watts out with 50 feet of RG-58u and some high loss PL-259 plugs will see power at the antenna reduced to possibly 3 or 4 watts with an equal loss in received signal strength, use N type plugs with no adaptors.

Height of your antenna seems much more critical at 432 MHz than 2 metres. An example of this is the path between myself and Tommy EI2IT near Cahir in Tipperary.

While maintaining my vertical Diamond X-510 recently, I noticed that when it was dropped from its working height of 48 feet over ground at its base, down to 20 feet over the ground, the 70cm signal disappeared. It was S-3 at full height, at the same time the 145 MHz signal only dropped one S point from S-5 to S-4.

Distances worked on 70cm are a bit less than 2m in my experience and it is important to have both 144 and 432 MHz aerials the same length if you want to have a chance of working distant stations on both 2 and 70.

Propagation modes on 432 are usually via Tropo.

I have encountered Aurora on 432 just once many years ago when I worked Simon G3LQR on CW.

This is probably because

- (1) Aurora has to be intense to reach 432 MHz
- (2) Not enough stations are active on 432 during such an opening
- (3) I live too far south to work aurora regularly.
- (4) My antenna gain is not high enough and power out is low at 50 watts.
- (5)

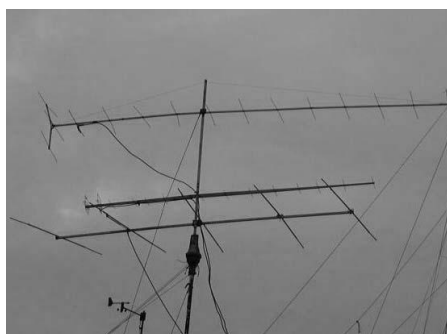
Meteor scatter is very difficult as reflections are very short on 432 MHz.

Sporadic E does not extend much beyond 144MHz and then only in intense openings, it has been worked on the 220 MHz band in the USA but not often.

EME is more specialized, a gain of about 22db would be useful and probably easy enough to achieve but getting it set-up correctly is not for the beginner.

Tony EI2FSB in Kilcrohane near Bantry is building an 8-meter dish for EME on 1296, there should be useful gain at 432MHz to allow moon-bounce and we eagerly await his results.

In this article I refer to SSB and CW to a horizontally polarised aerial.



The above picture shows my 13 element shortened 144MHz Yagi over a 15 element 432MHz Quagi over a 5 element modified 50 MHz Yagi.

This station is due to be upgraded in the future and a future article on that project might be forthcoming.

On 432 MHz, 2 stations equipped with 10 or 20 watts to 15 element Yagi's would expect to exchange reports of 5-2 to 5-5 over a 60-mile path depending on terrain as I do with EI2FSB.

Tests with GI4SNA David in Belfast have shown that in poor conditions where pressure is about 990mb that he would probably be unworkable on CW. Normal conditions of about 1005mb would probably achieve signals of 319 to 519.

Under good tropospheric conditions of 1028mb with pressure falling, his signal in Cork would probably be S-5 to S-7 and easily workable on SSB with my lowest power of 3 watts.

The GB3BSL beacon on 432.935 is located high on a telecommunications mast in Bristol and runs 250 watts to a 4 times 3 element yagi beaming east. This year during the summer and early autumn it was audible in Cork about

30% of the time, sometimes for days on end and often up to 539.

When listening for this beacon, take your time, it is likely to appear after a few minutes, enough time for you to put it into one of your rig memories.

I have not seen one or two days in a row when this beacon does not appear above the noise.

Tony EI2FSB 60 miles west of me near Bantry hears this beacon from time to time also.

QSO's on 432 are often made after first establishing contact on 144MHz.

The procedure I adopt, say for stations located on the north coast of Spain or the east of England, would be to pick a clear frequency, say 432.220 and request a CW test where I transmit on the even minute and my sked partner transmits on the odd.

Radio clocks are available in Argus and these are linked to Rugby MSF time server and are extremely accurate.

They cost about €30.

VHF field day affords the operator an ideal opportunity to do some square bashing on 70cms.

This year conditions were not the best, perhaps the worst in years with low pressure evident. Still some very good contacts were made with stations located in good sites abroad.

I worked F5KMQ/P in JN15JB, he was often audible on 144MHz for long periods of time, the first time we tried no contact was made on 432 but on the Sunday a successful 2nd attempt was made when I noticed his signal was about S-4 on 144MHz.

Other stations worked during the field day included G0XDI/P IN79, EI7TRG/P IO62, EA2URE IN93, GM3HAM/P IO74, G4BRA/P IO80, G4ALY IO70, F6FZS/P IN93, F6KPQ/P IN78 (a regular) G4RFR/P IO80, GW6YB/P IO81, G3FEC/P IO91, G0HSS/P JO01, G4LIP/P JO01.

Strange though but not unusual, I worked as much on 432 if not more as I did on 144MHz during this contest.

I have in the past seen conditions where stations are actually stronger on 70cms

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

than on 2 meters, and a few times over long haul paths to places like Spain and Czechoslovakia where no signal could be heard on 144MHz

I worked these stations from home using an FT-847, 50 watts to a homebrew 15 element quagi on a timber boom.

This antenna is longer than a 9 element Tonna for 2 metres and works very well, is easy to build and needs no matching device.

In fact 2 of these antennae will outperform a much longer 21-element Tonna and can easily be adapted to switch over to the "dreaded vertical polarisation"

Earlier on in the year the first opening on 432 MHz occurred on 22nd March with contacts to French and Spanish stations in IN53, IN73, IN93 squares. EA1DDU and EA1DKV were the strongest of these at 59.

Late May and early June saw the next opening to England where G4RRA IO80 and F/PA2CHR IN77 were worked.

PA2CHR Chris has just achieved DXCC number 12 on 144 MHz, now that's an achievement, well done Chris.

Towards the end of July conditions improved again and G4RBK IO91, EI8IP IO63, G4RRA IO80, GI4SNA IO64, F6APE IN97, G4EAT JO01, GI0GDP IN74, F1DBN/P JO00, G4KDH JO01, F1CWQ JO00, EI5EG IO52, and EI9FX IO63 were worked.

This was a pretty average opening with good signals being exchanged averaging 5-3.

A few stations in France, Northern Ireland, England and Holland were worked during August but it was largely a poor month for 70cms.

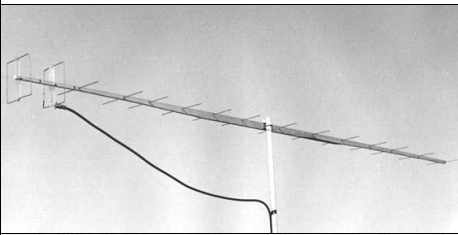
September is usually a good month for tropo on 144/432 MHz but the last few years were not, maybe it has something to do with solar maximum.

I cannot say without looking through my logbook but as far as I can remember, last peak of solar cycle was much the same.

This years log during September shows QSO's with PA3AWJ JO21, G4YTL JO92, F6CHB JN19, F6DKW JN19, G4AJC IO91, G4MKF IO91 and F1MOZ IN93, all on CW.

I have no doubt that a large amount of DX worked on both 144 and 432 MHz by me is largely due to CW.

432 MHz 15 Element Long Boom Quagi



432-MHz, 15-Element, Long Boom Quagi Construction Data

Element Lengths, Inches	Interelement Spacing, Inches
R—28	R-DE—7
DE—26-5/8	DE-D1—5-1/4
D1—11-3/4	D1-D2—11
D2—11-11/16	D2-D3—5-7/8
D3—11-5/8	D3-D4—8-3/4
D4—11-9/16	D4-D5—8-3/4
D5—11-1/2	D5-D6—8-3/4
D6—11-7/16	D6-D7—12
D7—11-3/8	D7-D8—12
D8—11-5/16	D8-D9—11-1/4
D9—11-5/16	D9-D10—11-1/2
D10—11-1/4	D10-D11—9-3/16
D11—11-3/16	D11-D12—12-3/8
D12—11-1/8	D12-D13—13-3/4
D13—11-1/16	

Boom: 1 x 2-in. x 12-ft Douglas fir, tapered to 5/8 in. at both ends.

Driven element: No. 12 TW copper wire loop in square configuration, fed at bottom center with type N connector and 52-Ω coax.

Reflector: No. 12 TW copper wire loop, closed at bottom.

Directors: 1/8-in. rod passing through boom.



Aurora is largely unworkable on SSB above 50 MHz and weak signal working is impossible on SSB, if there is any need for CW then it is essential on VHF, as any weak signal DX'er will tell you. I am sure the same can be said for the HF bands.

I hope this article will tempt you to try out your skills on 432 MHz and also because I can see a time in the not too distant future where we will lose a chunk of this band to Commercial users.

Here is a link to the design of the Quagi I use on 70 cms. I found it originally in an old ARRL handbook and have built several of them.

<http://commfaculty.fullerton.edu/woverbeck/quagi.htm>

73
Charles EI5FK

Mt. Leinster Repeater back on station

Amateurs in the Leinster area will be delighted to hear that the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group recently moved the EI2WRC 2 metre voice repeater back to its original location on Mt. Leinster.

The repeater was badly missed by amateurs who were not in range of any other repeater.

The move has been in planning and preparation for some time and required the purchase of a new mast and fittings.

The move was planned, organised and carried out by John EI8JA and Eoin EI7FXB

The repeater is on 145.650 MHz.





Contest Corner

With
Dave EI4BZ
ei4bz@eircom.net

VHF/UHF Field Day 2001 Results

Open Section

	6m	4m	2m	70cm	23cm	Points
EI7M/P	243	13	297	52	14	295,340
EI7TRG/P	64	1	53	11	0	53,326

Restricted Section

EI7DAR			78			14,958
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Operators

EI7M/P - EI2FG, EI7FJ, EI8GS, EI8IR

EI7TRG/P - EI2IT, EI2JB, EI3ENB, EI4FOB, EI5JF

EI7DAR/P - EI2HX., EI2JD, EI7FNB, MI3SBI, MI5AHG

CQWW CW 2001 - EI Scores

Section	Callsign	Points	QSOs	Zones	Countries
10m HP	EI5GM	168,516	1,209	26	67
80m HP	EI4BZ	142,870	1,140	18	73
Assisted All	EI4DW	453,789	655	81	262

CQWW SSB EI Records (Up to and Including 2001)

	Callsign	Score	QSOs	Zones	DXCC	Year
All	EI8IC	1,515,746	1,803	85	312	1999
10	EI8GS	496,278	1,761	34	124	2000
15	EI8IC	3,565,535	1,370	28	111	2000
20	EI2CN	605,914	2,080	35	107	1984
40	No Entry					
80	EI0REI	68,112	638	16	70	1974
160	No Entry					

Low Power

LAll	EI7GL	700,006	1,164	77	312	2000
L10	EI4DW	279,070	1,173	23	95	2000
L15	EI6FR	392,657	1,451	33	124	2000
L20	EI8IC	230,184	1,191	31	108	2001
L40	No Entry					
L80	No Entry					
L160	EI7IU	5,989	147	6	35	1998

Assisted (Packet)

A All	EI8IR	2,977,871	3,005	123	410	2000
A 10	EI4DW	472,512	1,516	29	109	2001
A 15	EI6FR	203,312	769	27	104	1997
A 20	EI2GX	204,276	1,017	27	89	1997
A40	No Entry					
A80	No Entry					
A 160	No Entry					

Multi-Single

MS	EI7M	9,563,686	6586	153	605	2001
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Multi-Multi

MM	No Entry					
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Welcome to another issue which features the results of the VHF/UHF Field Day.

This is a contest where the open section requires a lot of work and appears to be outside the capability of most groups. Groups should consider banding together for this one, something that happened in the past.

Congratulations to the three groups who made the effort, especially to the Dundalk Group who will take the IRTS VHF Trophy for the first time.

CQWW

Also listed on the left are the EI scores from the CQWW CW held in November 2001.

Have a look at the EI records in the CQWW SSB contest. There are several sections with no previous entries and some with very low scores that could be achieved relatively easily.

This contest will be held over the last weekend in October, that's the 26th and 27th.

We will carry the CQWW CW records in the next issue and the same comments apply to that one.

This one will be held over the last weekend in November, that's the 23rd and 24th this year.

SSB Field Day

The recent SSB Field Day was another bit of a disaster conditions wise with a flare on the Saturday seriously affecting conditions on the HF bands. After the lightning ruining the CW field day, we were really looking forward to a better effort on SSB. At EI7M/P, the conditions seemed to affect morale and the towel was thrown in very early.

The Dalkey Island Group seemed more focused and running in the restricted section produced the highest score of the weekend.

Up in Dundalk, Thos EI2JD assembled a team using his own callsign and in his first outing found that the restricted section is really very hard work. Expect to see him in the open section next year.

Autumn Counties Contest

Activity in the Autumn Counties Contest was much better than in previous

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

years but was still down on the Spring numbers. There was not as many counties available but activity on SSB seemed to be well up on previous contests.

This could be influenced by the fact that I had problems with the FM vertical and had to make all QSO's with the small horizontal beam.

This time I took a chance and did not fully check all elements of the station before making the long trip to County Offaly.

We really never learn.

Was surprised to get a visit from EI4CF who was out hill walking in the Slieve Blooms. He also dropped in on EI2SDR on the Ridge of Cappard.

EU Sprints

The EU sprints will be held over the next two weekends with the SSB one on October the 5th and CW on October 12th.

They run for only four hours starting at 1500z and are good fun.

See the last issue of Echo Ireland for the full rules.

There is plenty of contest activity in the coming months. See the calendar on page 13.

Good luck in the contest

Dave EI4BZ

Scandinavian Activity Contest 2001 EI Results

CW SOHP

	Posn	Points	QSOs	Mults
EI8IC	20	22542	221	102

CW SOLP

	Posn	Points	QSOs	Mults
EI5DI	13	34385	299	115

SSB SOHP

	Posn	Points	QSOs	Mults
EI8IC	6	25175	265	95
EI4DW	9	20705	205	101

SSB Multi-Single

	Posn	Points	QSOs	Mults
EI1DD	2	36738	314	117

Operators:

EI2CA, EI4FBB, EI5HD, EI6EW,
EI7CD

IPA RADIO CLUB CONTEST

The International Police Association Radio Club (IPARC) invites all radio-amateurs of the world to take part in the IPARC-Contest which takes place every year on the first weekend in November.

1. Modes and times:

CW	02. Nov. 2002	0600 - 1000 UTC and 1400 - 1800 UTC
SSB	03. Nov. 2002	0600 - 1000 UTC and 1400 - 1800 UTC

2. Bands:

	CW	SSB
80 m	3500 - 3560 khz	3700 - 3800 khz
40 m	7000 - 7040 khz	7040 - 7100 khz
20 m	14000 - 14060 khz	14125 - 14300 khz
15 m	21000 - 21100 khz	21155 - 21300 khz
10 m	28000 - 28100 khz	28250 - 28600 khz

After QSY it is obligate to stay 15 minutes on the new band.

There are no contest-QSOs allowed outside of the above-mentioned frequency ranges!

3. Classes:

- A - Multi Op / Multi TX
- B - Multi Op / Single TX
- C - Single Op (no help by another person)
- D - SWL (without licence which allows participation)

Remarks: No differentiation between members of IPARC and non-members.
The class must be seen from the log.
Winners are the first three stations of each class.

4. Calling: CQ IPA Contest

5. Exchange:

RS(T) + current number, each mode beginning with 001.
Members of IPARC in addition "IPA", IPARC-members of USA also their state.

Exchanging a report is allowed once on every band and in every mode.
Generally, it is allowed to operate only with one callsign. Exchanging a rapport with the operator of a clubstation is allowed for awardhunting, but does not count for the contest.

6. Points:

- QSO-points: each QSO 1 point, each IPARC-station 5 points.
- Multiplier: each DXCC with IPARC-station / US-State with IPARC-station 1 point on each band.
- Score: each band: summary of QSO-points multiplied by summary of multi-points
- final result: summary of all bands

7. Closing date: 31. December 2002 (date as per postmark)

8. Contest Manager: Uwe Greggersen, DL8KCG, Hurststr. 9, D-51645 Gummersbach Email: dl8kcg@dar.de

9. Remarks: The list with the final result will be published in Packet Radio, Internet (www.ipa-rc.de) or is available against SAE + IRC.
This contest is a good chance to work the Sherlock-Holmes-Awards and Sherlock-Holmes-Trophies. It is not longer required to work the awards step by step!

More infos are available from the awardmanager:
Frank Reichelt, DL6JFR, Raumweg 4a, D-08541 Mechelgruen



The IARU Grid Locator System

By Tim Makins, EI8IC (ei8ic@qsl.net)

Grid Squares are being used more and more by Radio Amateurs throughout the world to identify the location of their stations.

First proposed at a conference in Maidenhead, England in 1980 (and hence sometimes called Maidenhead Locators), grid squares allow three levels of precision (two, four or six character) to define a station's latitude and longitude.

As can be seen by the map below, the world is divided into a grid of squares that are ten degrees of latitude high by twenty degrees of longitude wide.

Each square is identified by a different two-letter code. For example, Ireland is in location IO.

Each of these squares is further divided into 10 on each axis, giving 100 sub-squares, each of which is one degree of latitude high by two degrees of longitude wide.

A diagram of this can be seen in Fig. 1. Each of these squares is identified by the two letters of the alphabet from the map above (generally shown in capitals), and two numeric characters. For example, Dublin is in location IO63.

For higher precision, each grid square may be further divided into 24 on each axis, giving 576 sub-squares, each of which is 2.5 minutes of latitude high by 5 minutes of longitude wide.

A diagram of this can be seen in Fig. 2.

Each of these sub-squares is identified by the two letters of the alphabet and two numeric characters as before, plus two lower-case alphabetical characters. Using this system, a station's location is thus identified to within better than 5.6 nautical miles anywhere on the surface of the Earth.

For example, the centre of Dublin, at latitude 53d20m N and longitude 06d16m W, is in location IO63ui.

The easiest way to find out your own Grid Locator is by using one of the following resources:

- [Amsat Grid Conversion Page](#) An online resource on the Amsat website that will convert Latitude/Longitude to Grid, and from Grid back to Latitude/Longitude again.

- [Gridconv.zip](#) This 76k zip-file contains Wingrid.exe and Dosgrid.exe, DOS and (16 bit) Windows versions of a simple program that converts between NGR, Maidenhead Locator, QRA, and Latitude/Longitude.

- [WinGrid Ver3.6](#) This program calculates grid squares from latitudes and longitudes, the re-

verse, and calculates distances and headings from two sets of lat/long or grid squares. The program saves your home QTH information, converts from miles to kilometers, and allows switching between "DD MM SS" and "DD.ddddd" formats.

(This article is on Tim's website, address below. Also available is a range of maps of interest to experimenters. EI4BZ)

<http://www.qsl.net/ei8ic/>
Resources for Beginner and Budget Contesters.
New Range of Maps and Flags for Webmasters.
Reasonable rates for Website and Map Design

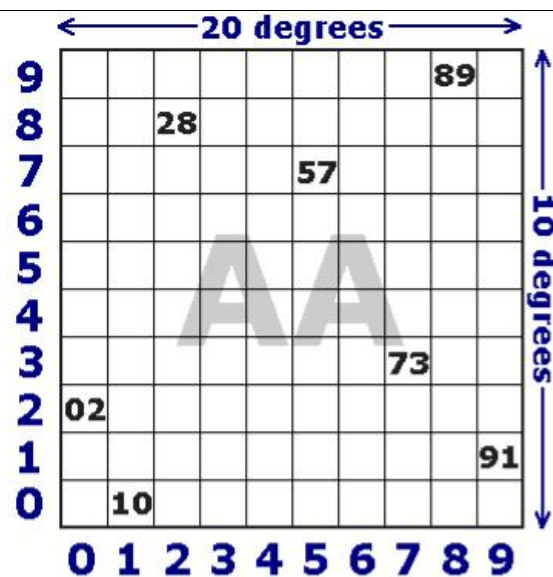
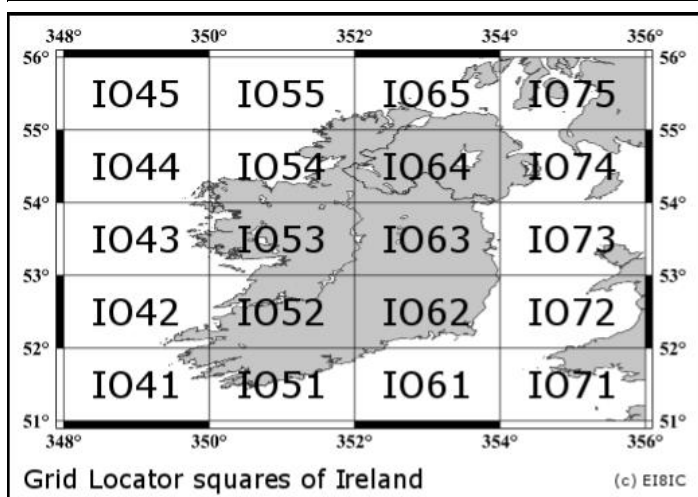
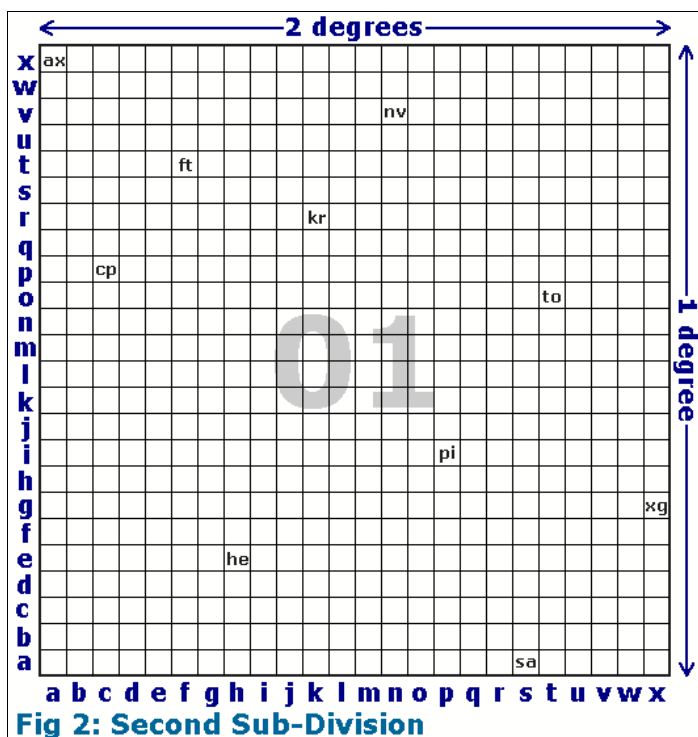


Fig 1: First Sub-Division

AR	BR	CR	DR	ER	FR	GR	HR	IR	JR	KR	LR	MR	NR	OR	PR	QR	RR
AQ	BQ	CQ	DQ	EQ	FQ	GQ	HQ	IQ	JQ	KQ	LQ	MQ	NQ	OQ	PQ	QQ	RQ
AP	BP	CP	DP	EP	FP	GP	HP	IP	JP	KP	LP	MP	NP	OP	PP	QP	RP
AO	BO	CO	DO	EO	FO	GO	HO	IO	JO	KO	LO	MO	NO	OO	PO	QO	RO
AN	BN	CN	DN	EN	FN	GN	HN	IN	JN	KN	LN	MN	NN	ON	PN	QN	RN
AM	BM	CM	DM	EM	FM	GM	HM	IM	JM	KM	LM	MM	NM	OM	PM	QM	RM
AL	BL	CL	DL	EL	FL	GL	HL	IL	JL	KL	LL	ML	NL	OL	PL	QL	RL
AK	BK	CK	DK	EK	FK	GK	HK	IK	JK	KK	LK	MK	NK	OK	PK	QK	RK
AJ	BJ	CJ	DJ	EJ	FJ	GJ	HJ	IJ	JJ	KJ	LJ	MJ	NJ	OJ	PJ	QJ	RJ
AI	BI	CI	DI	EI	FI	GI	HI	II	JI	KI	LI	MI	NI	OI	PI	QI	RI
AH	BH	CH	DH	EH	FH	GH	HH	IH	JH	KH	LH	MH	NH	OH	PH	QH	RH
AG	BG	CG	DG	EG	FG	GG	HG	IG	JG	KG	LG	MG	NG	OG	PG	QG	RG
AF	BF	CF	DF	EF	FF	GF	HF	IF	JF	KF	LF	MF	NF	OF	PF	QF	RF
AE	BE	CE	DE	EE	FE	GE	HE	IE	JE	KE	LE	ME	NE	OE	PE	QE	RE
AD	BD	CD	DD	ED	FD	GD	HD	ID	JD	KD	LD	MD	ND	OD	PD	QD	RD
AC	BC	CC	DC	EC	FC	GC	HC	IC	JC	KC	LC	MC	NC	OC	PC	QC	RC
AB	BB	CB	DB	EB	FB	GB	HB	IB	JB	KB	LB	MB	NB	OB	PB	QB	RB
AA	BA	CA	DA	EA	FA	GA	HA	IA	JA	KA	LA	MA	NA	OA	PA	QA	RA



International Lighthouse Weekend

The International Lighthouse weekend was held over the weekend of August 17./18th and was once again a great success.

Reports suggest that there were over three hundred lighthouses and lightships from over forty countries on the air.

The Old Head of Kinsale lighthouse was activated jointly by members of Kinsale Radio Club EI3HB and the East Cork Group EI7M. The callsign used was EI1OLH and Declan EI9HQ made the trip from Dublin to join both clubs in operating the station.

Loop Head Lighthouse was activated for the first time ever by a group of East Coast operators using the call sign EI7LHL.

Next years lighthouse weekend will be held on August 16/17th.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

General Meetings of the club will resume this coming Wednesday the 25th of September at 8.00 p.m. in the usual venue of Roanmore Social and Sports Centre, Cleaboy Road, Waterford.

Please note that the EI2WRC 2 metre voice repeater is now active again from Mt. Leinster. The move to Mt. Leinster was orchestrated by John EI8JA and Eoin EI8FXB and was in planning for the last number of weeks.

Signal reports are welcome. Thanks also to EI9HR for providing transport on the day of the move.

If anyone is interested in doing night classes leading up to the class B license, please contact Mark on 087-6302026 or e-mail the club at searg@angelfire.com.

If there is enough interest from west Waterford, there is a possibility that the classes this year will be run in Dungarvan. For information check out the clubs website at <http://www.angelfire.com/tx3/searg>.

Squares Table 2002

Callsign	6m	4m	2m	70Cm	23Cm	Total
EI2FSB	236	7	46	2	0	291
EI6IZ	282	1	1	1	0	285
EI2JD	252	0	17	3	0	272
EI5FK	168	0	86	24	0	278
EI7GL	224	11	22	3	0	260
EI7BMB	248	0	0	0	0	248
EI3IX	210	1	8	2	0	221
EI7BFB	173	0	15	0	0	188
EI3EBB	98	0	6	1	0	105
EI7IX	72	0	4	1	0	77
EI9IW	51	0	2	0	0	53
EI4IX	0	0	50	0	0	50
EI7FNB	41	0	1	0	0	42
EI7FAB	1	3	1	1	0	6

Fingal Radio Club Llandudno Trip

Fingal Radio Club's trip to the Llandudno Rally on the 2nd of November 2002 will commence on the Saturday morning of the 2nd of November, leaving Dublin Port at 0615 hrs and returning the same evening from Holyhead at 2045 hrs, arriving back in Dublin Port at approximately 22:20 hrs.

There will be no overnight stay.

The cost inclusive of all transfers will be 90 Euro.

This is a change from the original advertised arrangements.

Please phone Liam EI3HK at 01-8316266 or 087-2521542 for further information.

EI Results - ARRL CW Contest 2002

Call	Points	QSOs	Mults	Band
EI4DW	776,592	1,199	216	All
EI/SP3CW	38,682	307	42	40m
EI4CF	14,364	133	36	40m
EI4BZ	254,619	1,489	57	10m (World 1st)
EI5DI	140,070	805	58	10m

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Book Sales

Books, Maps, Logbooks etc.

Peter Grant, EI4HX
37 Glenmore Park, Dundalk, Co. Louth
Telephone 042-9332641

Video Library

Selection of radio related videos available on loan

Jim Ryan, EI3DP,
11 Knockgriffin, Midleton, Co. Cork.
Telephone 021-4632365

I.R.T.S. Radio News Service

Input for the radio news
should be sent to:

Mark Wall EI7IS
22 Sunshine Crescent,
Waterford
086-6302026

ei7is@qsl.net
or
cyberis@e-merge.ie

Members Advertisements

For Sale: Microwave Modules 28 to 432 MHz transverter 10W 80 Euro.
EI5GM 086-2684993

Beautiful cottage in West Cork for rent.
Near Goleen. Sleeps 6. Ideal for ham
radio. QTH of EI4GV/EI4HZ. Far re-
moved from RFI. Plenty of land for
antenna and testing. Located near
Mizen Head, Barley Cove and Crook-
haven.

Special 10% discount to IRTS mem-
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Cost (high season) Euro 400, low sea-
son Euro 300 per week.
Contact Peter at peter@t12.org or

IRTS CW News Bulletin

Sundays

at 1030

7.032 MHz

Islands On The Air Contest 2002

EI Claimed Scores (from the RSGB HFCC Web site 23/9/02)

Call	IOTA	Island	Category	Hours	Mode	Power	Points
EI4CF	EU-115	Ireland	Single-op	12	SSB	Low	275,604
EI4DW	EU-115	Ireland	Single-op	12	CW	Low	191,496
EI7CC	EU-115	Ireland	Single-op	12	SSB	Low	349,044
EI7IQ	EU-115	Ireland	Single-op	24	SSB	Low	557,403
EI7M	EU-115	Ireland	Multi-op	24	Mix	High	6,235,977
EJ4F	EU-006	Inisheer	Multi-op	24	Mix	High	3,869,904
EJ5E	EU-121	Inisbofin	Multi-op	24	Mix	High	3,217,667

VP8THU

South Sandwich Islands DXpedition

The video of this DXpedition is now available
from Declan Craig EI6FR,
Price 20 Euro, including post & packing.

The VP8GEO - South Georgia video will be out
shortly.

Declan also holds stocks for the following :
ZL9CI - Campbell Island
VK0IR - Heard Island
FO0AAA - Clipperton
A52A - Bhutan
all at 20 Euro

Jamboree On The Air

The next date on the Radio Scouting calendar is
Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)

which will take place on

October 19th and 20th.

Radio Amateurs or clubs requiring information on
JOTA can contact the

CSI National JOTA Organiser,
Sean EI3IP at QTHR or via e-mail.

Sean O'Suilleabhain at ei3ip@qsl.net
087-232 6994